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To: Catherine Blewett  
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Object: **SAFE FOOD FOR CANADIANS REGULATIONS**  
Objet:

From / De: *[Signature]* Nadia Bouffard, Director General, External Relations JUL 13 2018

Via: Anne Lamar, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy *[Signature]* JUL 13 2018

Additional approvals:  
Autre(s) approbation(s):



Material for the Minister  
Documents pour le Ministre



Your Signature  
Votre signature



Information

Screen: The Department has assessed this issue in full.

Filtre: ☒ It contains no reference to matters covered by the screen relating to J.D. Irving Limited.

☐ It contains matters referenced in the screen relating to J.D. Irving Limited, but in our view does not engage the screen.

☐ In our view, the screen relating to J.D. Irving Limited should be engaged.

Remarks:  
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Fisheries and Oceans  
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Canada

Strategic Policy Sector

Secteur politique stratégique

S/Assistant Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre adjointe/p

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER

**SAFE FOOD FOR CANADIANS REGULATIONS  
(FOR INFORMATION)**

**SUMMARY OF ADVICE TO DEPUTY MINISTER**

The purpose of this note is to inform you that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) new *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* (SFCR) enters into force on January 15, 2019. The SFCR will replace 14 sets of food safety regulations currently governing food labelling, standards of identity and grades requirements in different areas of the agri-food sector and intends to deliver on the CFIA's 2018 budget commitment to modernize Canada's regulatory systems.

Under the SCFR, foods imported, for export, or inter-provincially/territorially traded will require a licence, traceability records, as well as preventative controls to address potential risks to food safety.

CFIA presented on the SFCR at the most recent meeting of the Seafood Value Chain Roundtable on June 19-20, 2018. There were no immediate concerns expressed by industry.

The Department, however, is examining how to support the sector during this transition to the new SCFR requirements. DFO officials will keep you apprised of any developments.

**BACKGROUND**

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is developing implementing rules for their 2012 *Safe Food for Canadians Act*, titled, the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* (SFCR), expected to enter into force on January 15, 2019. Currently undergoing Canada Gazette (CG) Part II consultations, the SFCR will replace 14 sets of food safety regulations currently governing food labelling, standards of identity and grades requirements in different areas of the agri-food sector, including the *Fish Inspection Regulations*.

The SFCR is intended to deliver on CFIA's Budget 2018 commitment to modernize Canada's regulatory systems, while also helping the Government of Canada meet its target of \$75 billion in agri-food exports by 2025.

Under the SFCR, importers and Canadian fish and seafood companies that trade across international, provincial or territorial borders will need to be licenced as well as have preventative controls in place that address potential risks to food safety.

To help reduce food recall times, food companies will also be required to maintain traceability records that allow them to trace their food one step back to their supplier and one step forward to whom they sold their products. Retailers would only be required to trace their food one step back to their supplier.

### **STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS**

The SFCR is expected to impact importers the most, as it will create a level playing field for domestic producers who are currently subject to Canadian requirements which previously did not apply to imported foods. It will also affect domestic industry that trade across provincial and territorial borders.

The SFCR would complement and further support Canadian fish and seafood exploring companies exporting by better aligning Canadian requirements with those of other importing countries, most notably, the United States.

DFO is currently examining how it can best support industry to transition to meet the new SFCR requirements, including leveraging the upcoming Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund, if appropriate.

### **EXTERNAL CONSULTATIONS**

CFIA has been actively consulting the fish and seafood sector to address any issues they may have. More recently, CFIA presented on the SFCR at a recent Seafood Value Chain Roundtable meeting (June 19-20, 2018). In attendance was a cross-section of industry members and provincial and territorial representatives. During the presentation, Industry did not express any concerns with the SFCR, and were encouraged to take part in the CFIA CG Part II.

### **NEXT STEPS**

DFO officials will advise you of any updates on the SCFR implementation as it relates to the fish and seafood sector.

  
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Anne Lamar